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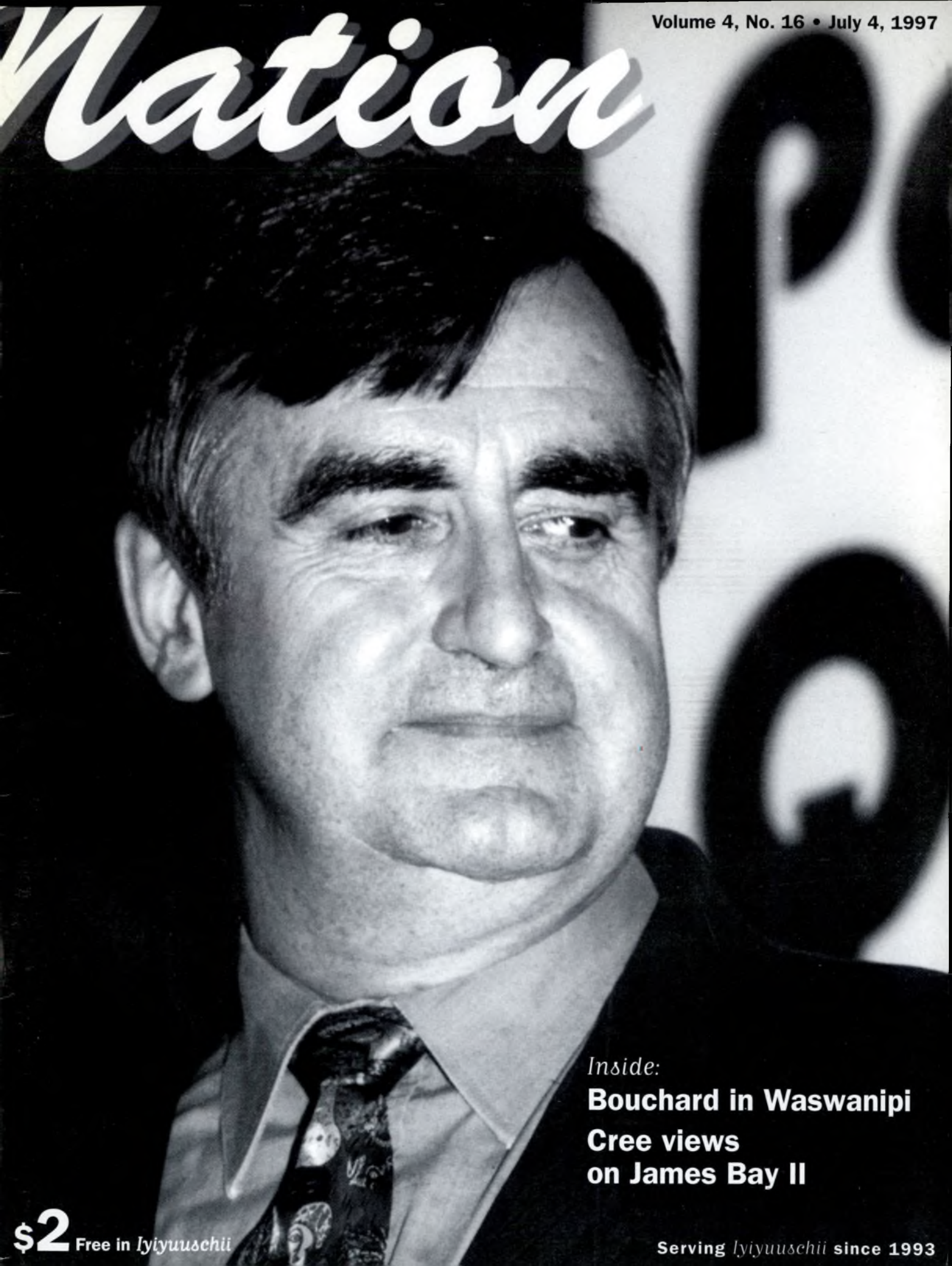
Nation



Inside:

Bouchard in Waswanipi

Cree views on James Bay II

$2 Free in *Iyiyuuschii*

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Just because YOU don't like veggies...
Doesn't mean your KIDS won't!
Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

SELLING OUR FUTURE DOWN THE RIVER

The mega-corp. Crees love to hate is back. Just when Crees and all their allies thought the Great Whale project was dead it showed up again in a new mutated, virulent form. The utility and Quebec government sang everyone a soft lullaby and hummed that James Bay Phase II is shelved and gone. Like simple-minded fools we bought the song for a penny, no payments for two years and forgot to look at the compound interest we would owe.

Meanwhile Hydro-Quebec had a free rein to sell power to the northeastern United States. Everyone had believed the lie and stopped fighting... until now. In the meantime HQ tripled their electricity exports to the States.

Now that the initial shock is over what are we going to do about it? We have to look at the roots of the this problem.

One thing has not changed—that this is merely to sell power to Americans and aluminum companies in return for **BIG MONEY**. Cree land is still seen as profit in the eyes of this southern mega-corp., and not even very good profit at that. It is being sold below the cost of production!

Though Hydra-Q are selling at a loss today and would be selling at a loss tomorrow, they would probably argue that in some future it will be worth it. Even assuming that it eventually pays off, I would have to ask about the costs today.

If I had a company that was losing money on new development all the time, I would have to ask "Where's the Beef?" Hydro-Quebec spokespeople have said everyone in Quebec is a "shareholder" of the mega-corp. Especially as a shareholder I would wonder at Hydro's losing money while selling to the Americans, the aluminum companies and big, big business. Then where is the profit coming from?

The sad reality is that there is no profit because the shareholder, you, me, indeed all Quebecers, are paying for the economic stupidity and lack of foresight and hindsight in Hydro-Quebec's grandiose plans, past, present and possibly the future.

We pay more, each time that Hydro-Quebec asks for a rate increase and it's given to them by an provincial government greedy for money. And yes the mega-corp.'s high voltage "profits" (remember the $700-million figures?) are used by the government in place of more "taxes."

We are currently looking at paying even more because Hydro-Quebec has sold the reservoir levels to others placing us, the "domesticated" market in jeopardy.

But the question remains what can we do about it? How can we, as consumers, demand that we deserve as much consideration as the below-cost purchasers?

A few ideas come to mind. Every month we get electrical bills from Hydro-Quebec. In the States we asked people to fold the bills in two, staple them or tape them shut and write an appropriate message on them. In this case I would suggest writing, "No river diversions and we want lower rates." A few minutes each month to express your wishes and desires to a mega-corp. in a way they can't ignore! No longer can they anonymously slip them into the computer to grab your hard earned dollars in a rational non-emotional manner. They have to deal with you as a real human being. Not only fun but you get to be a pain in the butt for their accounts receivable division. Who said civil disobedience and anarchy can't be fun and easy!?!

My other ideas require a little more work on your part and mine. Since we are supposed to be "shareholders" of Hydro-Quebec why don't you send me a letter giving me your proxy "vote." When I get enough of them I'll go in and make them lower the electricity rates or fire the bunch of them without the $100,000-plus going away parties. Alternatively elect me as the new HQ president in your letter. While I promise to lower the rates I will still keep the salary that comes with the job. Hey, perks are perks and I deserve some reward for being on your side for a change... right?

If these things don't work, at least, we'll have exposed the lie of "shareholders" for what it was. But the proxy "votes" should allow us, the consumer, the ability to launch a class-action suit against Hydro-Quebec for subsidizing others at our expense. It is time someone has taken to task this supposedly newly regulated mega-corp.

The address is: *The Nation*, c/o William Nicholls, P.O.Box 48026, 5678 Parc Ave., Montreal, Quebec, H2V 4S8.

Fairness is just a stamp away.

by William Nicholls

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COVER PHOTO

Premier Bouchard visits Iiyuuschii.

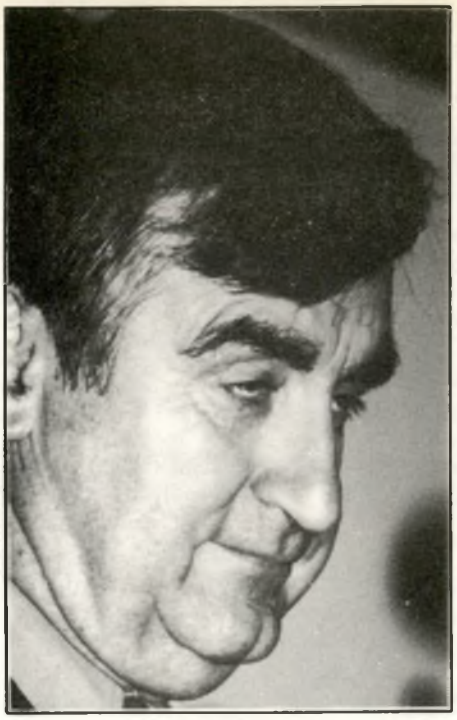
Photo by Neil Diamond. Design by Katerina Cizek.

JULY 4, 1997

RE: NOTES

So, how did you feel when you heard about our "friends" from HQ going on the offensive again? I was, as you might have guessed, left speechless. Weeks before my personal life was in shambles and I had to abandon my campaign for a seat in Parliament at the last minute. No kidding. So you can imagine, after all this, how I felt. And I got to thinking, what can I do to help? What can I say? Do I possess the eloquence needed to save our great nation? Needless to say, I found I didn't. And that's when, thank God, I came upon a copy of a speech given by my esteemed cousin Chief Billy Diamond at Carleton University in 1990. I couldn't have said it better myself...

-Neil



NEIL DIAMOND

The Honourable Lucien Bouchard.

"The strength and mettle of a People is formed not only from a common language, culture, tradition and way of life, but their attachment to land and resources. This is the unique strength and composition of the different Native Peoples of Canada and their view towards society as a whole.

An Indian must not only talk the same language as his brethren, but also must have the same attachment to the value of the land and its resources. Government has been trying to break these parts of Indian society for over 100 years...

Most important of all is the use of a form of environmental racism to destroy the link between Native Peoples and the land and resources. Hydro-electric developments throughout all of Canada promoted and sponsored by governments (federal and provincial) testify to this...

When I look at the annual operating plan of Hydro-Quebec and see that its objectives include exporting large amounts of electricity to the United States with a minimal return without concern to the effects upon the Native People in Quebec or environment, I am outraged and appalled!

The Government of Quebec in 1971 proceeded with the construction of a massive hydro-electric project in James Bay without consulting, caring for nor considering the permanent Native residents of the territory. We clearly understood that this massive project was the last. We knew of the future demands of the Province, other sources of electricity, the potential for new sources of power and we signed to give approval to build that project, and that project only. ...

There have been major negative effects on our People since the project got built - consequences we never expected nor were informed of. Mercury poisoning was never an effect we could have predicted. We got a few jobs for our People when the project was built. That was it. The number of permanent jobs can be counted on one hand. Many of our Youth are faced with despair and frustration...

Now, the hypocrisy of Government has reached a new high in Quebec. These madmen are proposing the construction of two other hydro-electric projects - the Great Whale River and the Nottaway Broadback Rupert complexes...

They propose to destroy our People, destroy the resources, mangle and drown the Land, and condemn the environment solely for the purpose of export of this power to the United States. The destruction of a People and the Land for a few pieces of silver! Hydro-Quebec has become the "Judas of the North"! ...

We have some very solemn obligations. Those obligations are not towards Government nor you people in the audience today. They are to a more important group of people today - our future generations. The land and the resources are their heritage and are not here for us to give away, destroy or sell...

No amount of money, no matter how high, is worth the LIFE or WELFARE of any single Cree, man, woman or child, and when Mr. Bourassa and Mr. Mulroney look at values let them take note that that is my value system. NO MORE- NO LONGER - NEVER AGAIN."

by Billy Diamond

the Nation

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NEILD DIAMOND

BOUCHARD PROMISES TO OCCUPY NORTH

"WE WILL INEVITABLY HAVE TO POPULATE THIS TERRITORY"

Premier Lucien Bouchard promised to plant the Quebec flag in Iiyuuschii and occupy the North during his historic first visit to James Bay this month.

Bouchard was the first Quebec premier to visit a Cree community in 20 years. He came to Waswanipi for a meeting with Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come and the other chiefs.

He also attended the grand opening of Waswanipi's new sawmill, where a group of protesters was on hand to speak out against Quebec's forestry policies and any new hydro projects (see sidebar).

Later, in Chibougamau, Bouchard uttered these words, as quoted in Le Sentinelle newspaper: "More and more, the Quebec government has the obligation to have its flag well planted in this land of destiny. To do this, we will inevitably have to populate this territory and give its inhabitants the means of developing its riches in harmony with the Natives who also live there."

Provocative words for a guest in your home, you might think, but Bouchard was politely received by the Cree leadership while he was in Waswanipi.

According to our reports, the meeting started off "on a nervous note." But the Grand Chief and Bouchard managed to break the ice by agreeing to disagree and engaged in a frank exchange of their views and principles.

A breakthrough came when Bouchard turned to Resources Minister Guy Chevrette and told him to move ahead with revenue-sharing. Also, the long-stalled Quebec-Cree talks led by Chief Billy Diamond may now get unblocked. The talks were announced to great fanfare by Jacques Parizeau, who promised Crees long-awaited funds for community projects. The talks are now stalled after two years with no results. As of April 1996, they had already cost Crees $229,576 in various expenses.

Chief Abel Bosum was hopeful things will now change. "We weren't always that sure about Parizeau. To some extent it was a political statement. But now would be a good time to test it to see if they are sincere. I think we allowed things to drag and drag. And as a result Quebec gained time. It kept the Crees quiet for a time."

There was some confusion when the southern newspapers came out with their reports on Bouchard's visit. "Crees hail Bouchard," said a bold headline across the top of The Montreal Gazette's front page. "Crees favourable to the development of their territory," said La Presse.

The Toronto Globe and Mail reported that Crees have no problem with HQ's latest idea to divert the Great Whale and Rupert.

"They (Crees) have no objection to discussing partnership proposals or joint ventures on other (new) types of hydro-electric projects. One such project is the diversion of the Rupert River and the Great Whale River into existing hydro-electric reservoirs."

How did The Globe get this impression of the Cree position? We don't know. But we do know Crees have strong views on any new hydro projects.

We bring those views to you

by Alex Roslin

on p. 10.

PICKUP PAYS PRICE FOR PROTEST

What would a trip to Waswanipi be like without a little excitement over Paul Dixon's pickup? Premier Bouchard was in town for a historic visit with the Cree chiefs and the grand opening of Waswanipi's sawmill. But here was Paul hunched over the wheel of his truck deep in thought. "Do you think my truck is too flashy?" he asked.

That morning, the truck seemed sluggish when Paul started her up for the trip into town. We were going to get a new guinea pig for his son, Michael. We got out and examined the tires. Totally deflated. The two front ones were slashed by a small knife.

I shouldn't say we were surprised. The day before, Paul was one of a handful of brave—or foolhardy, depending on your outlook—souls who decided they couldn't let Premier Bouchard blow into town without hearing what the common folk think about forestry and James Bay Part Deux (or is it Duh).

Their protest at the sawmill opening was met by a few isolated boos from the crowd and quiet nods of approval from the Elders present.

ALEX ROSLIN

After the protest, someone commented, "That Paul's got caJones." But Paul was already wondering about reprisals. "Maybe I should put some tape on my gas tank," he said. Paul didn't want to get "sanded." But it was his tires that ended up paying the price.

Later in a Chibougamau restaurant, we had a laugh about what happened with Matthew Coon Come. He recalled that when he was chief in Mistissini, he faced similar acts of vandalism from disgruntled voters.

"And you thought Montreal was bad," Matthew laughed.

I ventured, "I guess it's good *The Nation* is in Montreal."

-Alex Roslin

Would you like to develop, start or expand your business?

Eeyou Economic Group/CFDC Inc. (EEG) provides business assistance and loan financing to James Bay Cree Small businesses. EEG works in collaboration with the Federal Office of Regional Development (Quebec) (FORD-Q).

Loans are for an amount up to $75,000 and applicants must meet all of the following requirements:

- the promoter is Cree and a beneficiary of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBQNA);
- the project will be carried out on Cree territory, as defined in the JBQNA;
- the project has the support of the relevant band council, as demonstrated by a band council resolution, or by an agreement in principle;
- the promoter must be able to provide at least 15% equity in cash;
- the promoter has a complete business plan;
- a loan guarantee is also required.

In order to find out more about our services, please contact:

Robert Kitchen
Director General
Eeyou Economic Group/CFDC Inc.
3, Highway 113
Waswanipi, Quebec
J0Y 3C0

Telephone: (819) 753-2560
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It will be our pleasure to help you develop, start, or expand your business.

The Chief and Council of the Whapmagoostui First Nation would like to congratulate the following high school and post-secondary graduates from Whapmagoostui:

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES:

Linda George
Diane George
Gloria George
Moses Kawapit
John Kawapit, Jr.
Charlotte Masty, Jr.
Patrick Masty
Abraham Moar
Ritchie Sandy

POST SECONDARY GRADUATES

Francis Kawapit, Jr.
— Office Systems (D.E.C.)
Emma Sandy
— Office Administration (General)

The Chief and Council are proud of your determination to succeed in your studies. Your success and achievement is a big step towards the betterment of our community and that of our Eeyou Nation. Your accomplishment will encourage other youth to do the same. You are therefore contributing to the well-being of our people, our community and our Eeyou Nation. It gives us great joy in our hearts to have young people such as yourselves setting examples for others.

Congratulations to you all,
best of luck in your future endeavors!

Sincerely
Matthew Mukash, Chief

ALEX ROSLIN

LAYWER COUNSELS AGAINST FORESTRY DEALS

IMMEDIATE ACTION NEEDED ON LOGGING: WASWANIPI LAWYER

The legal counsel of the Waswanipi band believes that private deals with forestry companies are "the modern version of the selling of Manhattan Island," and recommends that tallymen should not sign them because they undermine Cree rights to their land.

"The tallyman who has entered into such a deal virtually loses the right to seek redress if the activities of the company eventually destroy the traditional economic base of the trapline," writes lawyer Benoit Tremblay in a February 1994 letter.

"These dealings also do not make any economic sense for the trappers," Tremblay writes. "While the company is able to make a handsome profit out of the exploitation of the Cree forests, the trapper is left with but a few rapidly depreciating pieces of equipment with no comparable value with what the company is getting in return."

Tremblay's letter was addressed to the Cree Forestry Committee, headed by Philip Awashish. A copy was obtained by *The Nation*.

The letter says the only way the Cree way of life can be saved from forestry in the southern traplines is through an immediate Cree Nation court action challenging Quebec's entire forestry policy and its respect of the James Bay Agreement. Such a court challenge is only now being prepared by the CRA this summer, over three years later.

Despite the letter, Waswanipi Chief John Kitchen later proceeded to get involved himself in negotiating a series of controversial deals between tallymen and forestry companies. Critics of these deals such as the CTA have argued that they may damage Cree rights.

Tremblay's letter expresses alarm about the threat forestry poses to the hunting way of life. "I have to remind myself constantly that the story of humankind is mainly that of the disappearance of most of its cultural groups. Pray tell me, where are the Gauls? The Vikings? The Mohicans? The Hittites?" he asks. "I have become very pessimistic about the chances of survival of the trapline system and eventually of the Cree traditional way of life. I have decided that ordinary civil remedies are just about useless."

He holds out one ray of hope: "There might be a fighting chance to preserve the traplines if we refer to the JBNQA, which may be a severely flawed document, but contains sufficient provisions to enable us to act... But if this is the solution, then it must be decided immediately."

At the same time, Tremblay says he has "lost faith" in the justice system to protect Cree harvesting rights. He writes that the damage from forestry is so bad, some of the traplines "have been totally rendered useless by unconscionable commercial forestry practices." Tremblay, a former game warden, also refers to "many examples of illegal forestry practices," and says Crees have been subject to "low-level terrorism" by non-Native hunters coming into the territory on logging roads. He mentions a "quasi-law" that has the apparent blessing of game wardens which allows sports hunters to claim exclusive use of a hunting area by simply installing a wooden sign saying, "Chasseur à l'affut." These signs are not sanctioned by any real law but have been used especially to harass Natives, Tremblay said.

by Alex Roslin

UGLINESS AT 381

The rest stop known as "381" is known to Crees for its ridiculous prices and awful food. Now, it is also becoming known for bad attitude.

Christopher Stephen, CBC reporter from Waskaganish, was pressed for time when he pulled into the 381 gas bar at 11:57 a.m. on Friday, June 20.

He was low on juice and on his way to the La Grande airport where his passenger had to make a flight to Whapmagoostui at 1:50 p.m.

Everthing was under control. Two hours was just enough to drive the 210-kilometre distance.

But he wasn't counting on gas bar attendant Chantale Mainville.

Mainville was heading out for her hour-long lunch, which technically is supposed to start at 12 p.m.

Our hurried travellers pleaded with Mainville. Stay an extra minute or two so we can gas up, they asked her. After all, the plane was waiting.

Mainville would not be swayed. Instead she grew impatient and rude, complains Stephen.

"She was throwing the F word a lot. She said, C'mon, f**k, can't you f**king wait?! I know it's her lunch but if it was a white person it would have been probably done," he speculated. "She refused to speak English but I heard her saying something about Indians."

Fortunately, Stephen's passenger hitched his way to the airport and made the flight. But Stephen is still riled up.

He mentioned a young man from Mistissini who had worked at 381 and had to stop because the other workers there were apparently using racial remarks.

"I don't know if it's a racial matter or just politeness," Stephen said.

"But I don't think she should be allowed to work here if she's going to act like that. This is our territory."

JOHANNE GRENON HONOURED AT GALA

Congratulations to our very own tireless Johanne Grenon, who moonlights as president of the group Les Amitiés interculturelles de Chibougamau.

Her years of generous volunteer efforts paid off when the group was honoured with the title of Cultural Organization of the Year at the 3rd Gala

CONTINUED ON P. 9

Maamuitaau
On CBC TV

July 19 and 20
Residents of Waskaganish voted in favor of having a road built to their community. Join **Maamuitaau** as we meet with residents to discuss their personal reactions to the decision. Also on the show, a controversial bowhead whale hunt took place recently in the far north. CBC North cameras were there to capture the sights and sounds of this unique event.

July 26 and 27
Occasionally Cree residents from isolated communities must go to Montreal for medical treatment. For many the experience is overwhelming and intimidating. John Mianscum from Mistissini and Mabel Spencer from Chisasibi saw a need to help. They opened their houses in Montreal to Cree patients providing a 'home away from home' environment. **Maamuitaau** talks with John and Mabel about their successful project. Also, we talk with Paul Petawabano from Mistissini about his career as a pilot.

Watch **Maamuitaau:**

Saturdays	06:58	SRC
Sundays	07:00	CBMT
	18:00	SRC

(subject to change)

CBC North

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CREE SCHOOL BOARD

The administration, support staff and teachers of Sabtuan Adult Education Services (Cree School Board) in Mistissini would like to congratulate all the graduates from each of the communities and would like to extend best wishes to them in their future endeavours.

1996-97 GRADUATES
COASTAL

Professional Cooking - Chisasibi
Julie Bearskin
Barbara Cox (Ratt)
Mina Ratt
Helen Rupert (Pepabano)
Jaqcueline Sam (Cowboy)
Jeniifer Sam (Bearskin)
Madelaine Snowboy (Matthew)
Sherry Spencer
Stella Spencer
Janie Wash (Kanatewat)
Margaret Wash (Wadden)

French Upgrading - Chisasibi
Catherine Duff
Doris Duff
Louise Lameboy (Visitor)
Leanne Rupert (Pepabano)

English Upgrading - Chisasibi
Sylvia Bearskin
Dinah House
Joan Matowahom
William Matthew
Pauline Napash
Karen Napash
Agnes Petawabano

Cree Upgrading - Chisasibi
Beulah Cox (Sam)
Linda Georgekish (Pash)
Marjorie House
Donna Rupert

English Upgrading - Whapmagoostui
Lucy Natachequan (Gilpin)
Sarah Natachequan (George)
Steven Petagumskum
Lindy Rupert
Ernest Shem
Ron Sheshamush

1996-97 GRADUATES
WASWANIPI
Charlotte Bosum
Philip Cooper
Eric Happyjack
Jane Iserhoff
Kevin Martin
Lisa Neeposh

1996-97 GRADUATES
NEMASKA
Susan Wapache-Petawabano
Sarah Moore
Charlotte Wapachee
John Blackned
Josephine Jolly
Brenda Blacksmith

1996-97 GRADUATES
MISTISSINI

English Sector
John Bosum
Charlotte Gunner
Jonathan Hollands
Emily Iserhoff
Vivian Pocachiche

French Sector
Benjamin Loon
Maggie Voyageur

Vocational Sector: Data Processing
Andrew Coon
Patrick Forward
Errol Mianscum
Nancy Minascum
Elsie Neeposh
Richard Shecapio
Emily Shecapio Brien

SPECIAL AWARDS:
1. English Outstanding Student
John Bosum
2. Mathematics Outstanding Student
Gordon Brien
3. French Outstanding Student
Maggie Voyageur
4. Cooperation/Participation/ Attendance
Charlotte Gunner -Academic Upgrading
Emily Shecapio Brien -Data Processing

CONTINUED FROM P. 7

of Excellence of Radissonie, which took place in Chapais on April 19.

A trophy was presented to Johanne and Emily Capissisit-Gauthier by Yves Barrette of the Barrette-Chapais sawmill.

The five-year-old volunteer group is supported by the municipality and works to strengthen the bonds between the Native and non-Native cultures.

Its mission is to promote good relations between the citizens of Chibougamau and nearby Cree communities.

The group has worked with the Cree Indian Centre on Indian Day, Anti-Racism Day, the Salon du Commerce, the Radio-Café and the International Rallye of Chibougamau. It also encourages artists like Margaret Orr and Diane Toulouse.

The group was also involved in the Intercultural Festival of Ungava held in May 1994, during which four young Inuit presented a cultural show.

Canada cited for illegal police killing

Amnesty International says the police killing of Chippewa protester Dudley George may have been an "extrajudicial execution."

Normally it's countries like El Salvador, Mexico and Indonesia that are known for extrajudicial executions—illegal murders of political activists by the government.

Now, Canada has been singled out as well in the latest Amnesty report on the human-rights situation around the world.

The world's best-known rights organization notes that an OPP officer was charged with criminal negligence causing death in connection with the shooting of Dudley George "in circumstances suggesting he may have been extrajudicially executed."

The report continues, "Police opened fire on a bus that had been driven at police officers who were allegedly beating one of the protesters. The 15-year-old driver of the bus was wounded and Dudley George, who according to witnesses was standing some distance from the vehicle, was killed.

"Earlier in the day Dudley George, who had made statements critical of the police, had been threatened by police officers."

"We're still poor"

When we decided to ask Crees from different walks of life what they thought of the new HQ river diversion idea, we immediately thought of Margaret Cromarty.

As the Cree world has changed, she has remained a constant passionate voice reminding us about justice, equality and the other time-honoured principles that sustained the Crees, principles that are too easy to forget in this world.

Part of the trapline that sustained Margaret's family over the many generations is now under water due to the James Bay I hydro project. This is what she said:

Margaret Cromarty: When they put the Great Whale project on ice, we were in the States and they interviewed William, my husband. He was the one who said that famous quote: "Ice melts." He said they would start that thing up again. Are they starting it again?

***The Nation*: We don't really know. But it sounds like they are. What they're saying now is they're studying it. They're talking with the Cree leaders and they might propose some kind of compensation.**

What compensation? We haven't even reached that. It's only the bigshots who got rich with James Bay Phase I. It will be the same with the second phase. We know it will create jobs, but we don't know the impact on the land. It's all about money.

Did you already hear about the new project?

Yeah, I did hear some people talking about it here and there.

What was your reaction?

Disappointed. We fought so hard for that. We were one of the grassroots here in Chisasibi. We were one of the people who fought along with the Great Whale people. We thought it was going to be on the shelf for 10 years. But the economy, it's bad in Quebec. It's probably the reason they're starting it early...

I went to see the first rapids. There's nothing there. There's a large reservoir. They flooded a lot of land. They're probably going to do the same thing (with the new project). The land is going to be gone. And as you know now, we can't eat the fish. How much more wildlife we can't eat? And the salt water is going far into the bay.

The environmental impact doesn't look too good.

Where is your family's trapline?

It goes along the river from LG-1 to LG-2. It's no good any more. A lot of it has been wiped out. I didn't get anything. Everybody got rich on account of Phase I. I don't mind the schools, the Cree Health Board. We benefit from that. But it hurt us. We're still poor.

-Alex Roslin

Matthew Mukash

Chief of Whapmagoostui

I first met Matthew Mukash during the Great Whale campaign in the U.S. He impressed me with the large amounts of facts and figures he had stored and ready for use in almost any situation. The other and most important thing this man impressed me with was his dedication and strength of purpose. He really believed in what he was doing and victory was the only goal he would accept. It seemed that he had finally attained that goal when Parizeau announced that Great Whale was indefinately shelved.

Two years later the ghost of Great Whale would raise its ugly head to haunt this man again. *The Nation* decided to see what the Chief of the village that blackened Hydro-Quebec's eye had to say about this possible new threat to Great Whale.

By William Nicholls

***The Nation*: You had an election platform that included no developing of the hydro-electric potential of the Great Whale river. Was that an important part of the campaign in this June 23rd election?**

Matthew Mukash: Yes, I mentioned that Hydro-Quebec was in some form reviving the Great Whale Project. I told people it was always my stand to fight for the land and the resources that sustained us, and that I was going to continue to oppose this project. I have received a mandate to oppose this project in the past. In this election, I won by a large majority of the votes and to me, the mandate regarding Great Whale still stands.

What was your initial reaction when you learned of the Hydro-Quebec plans?

I was not nervous at all, actually. I said to myself, "Who is the government in Quebec, anyway?" Wasn't it the government of Quebec that announced that Great Whale was not going to go ahead in 1994? We sat around and talked about it in the office for about half an hour and then we told the public about it. The people was concerned and instructed us to find more about it. In any case, I personally think any serious talks about the whole thing will take some time. They'll have to reopen the whole issue of environmental-impact assessment and all. It is certainly not going to be easy.

There are some people who have said that Crees should not even allow studies. That the easiest way to stop a project is when it is in the exploration phase. Do you agree with this?

I certainly do and so do my people here. There's a proposal to promote the distribution of the video *Power* in the United States. We are planning on following the route that we took with the Odeyak in 1990 and screening it in those U.S. cities and towns where we were received on that journey. This video is slowly making it to where it is most needed - hearts of the people who are truly concerned with human rights and the environment.

We haven't had the time to meet as a community since April. The council was busy preparing for the present elections. But there's a plan to formally reaffirm our control of the traditional territory of the Whapmagoostui Cree by way of a declaration. This official text will be in Cree. Basically, the declaration will be made to ourselves, stating our understanding of the purpose of our existence, why we were placed geographically as we are and our place in relation with the rest of the world. We always said this should have been done when the first Hydro project was announced in the early 70's, but our lawyers advised us otherwise.

This declaration will set the basis for the future negotiations with governments or any groups or organizations that want anything having to do with resource development or other projects within Whapmagoostui Iiyiyuu traditional territory. We know it will be difficult for governments to recognize this, and they probably never will, but it has to be done. There is a lot of internal work to be done within the Cree Nation, in my view. I personally do not have a problem with government negotiations having to do with past grievances and unfulfilled obligations by governments and Hydro-Quebec under the JBNQA. But I do have a problem with regard to the position of the governments and Hydro-Quebec that we are only entitled to those benefits as long as we accept their interpretation of the extinguishment clause, which states that we supposedly gave up all of our rights to the land and resources, when we signed the Agreement in 1975. You know, to our Elders, rights over the territory and resources are divinely given. You cannot give them up if you tried. I think the Cree Nation needs to sit down and really think hard about the meaning of this and our existence.

There have been a couple of meetings, Billy Diamond with Guy Chevrette and Matthew Coon Come with the new president of Hydro-Quebec. Then there was a meeting between the other chiefs and Bouchard. Have you been kept up to

speed on what's happening?

Yes, I have. I was not able to attend the meetings because of the upcoming elections, but I was at the CRA/GCCEE Council/Board meeting when the meeting between Hydro-Quebec and Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come was discussed. I understood that this was going to be an informal one-to-one meeting between the HQ official and Mr. Coon Come. I had to leave early that afternoon, so I was not in the meeting when the decision that the Grand Chief should meet with the HQ president was made. I was quite surprised at the turnout of the meeting. First the decision that Mr. Coon Come should go ahead with the meeting, and the ensuing press report. I personally had a problem with this.

In what way?

Well, we are always talking about nation-to-nation relationships with heads of state, including the government of Quebec. We, as a nation, should deal more with the government regarding issues that affect our people, particularly regarding unfulfilled obligations on the part of their own agencies or corporations such as Hydro-Quebec. This meeting may have been one-to-one and good-willed, but it made us look like we are secretly dealing with Hydro-Quebec so that it can make a strong proposal to the government of Quebec - which even claimed that it did not know of its plans to divert major rivers in Iiyiyuuschii - with respect to upgrading hydro-electric installations at La Grande. For me, we have to do better than that, and I say this with due respect.

> "we have decided to identify the area of our own traditional territory, within which we will assume full and total control and jurisdiction"

So what do you think of the task force then. I'm talking about the three Crees and three Quebec people who will be travelling around the communities to talk to Crees about looking at further hydro-electric development in Iiyiyuuschii?

Well, I am not aware at this time of such a task force, but if such a decision has been made, then I think we are jumping to conclusions here. In 1995, at a Special General Assembly in Chisasibi, the Cree Nation adopted a set of principles for the nation's restructuring and self-government. The Whapmagoostui First Nation understood that the restructuring process was to lead to a declaration of total control of the Cree traditional territory by the Iiyuuch. That is why we have decided to identify the area of our own traditional territory, inside which we will assume full and total control and jurisdiction.

It was our understanding that there would be community consultations which would lead to a common position with respect to Nation restructuring, self-government issues, relationships with governments and other important issues, including future development in Iiyuuschii. This is why I am surprised and concerned that a decision may have been made regarding establishment of the task force you mentioned. Yes, the Whapmagoostui First Nation shares the view that their needs to be serious negotiations with governments regarding unemployment in the communities, health issues and so on. But we think the Cree Nation has to be very careful with our approach in addressing these issues.

There are certain rumours going around that some Cree businesses or interests would like to see the Great Whale or Rupert diversions go ahead?

Well, we are quite aware of that. We heard this so many times during the campaign against Great Whale. There were always a few business-minded Crees who expressed that there should be some consideration for the unemployment rate among the Cree Nation. I think it is normal for business people to think that way but as leaders we have to go to the people. We have to listen to the people. We have to get directions from the people as leaders.

This is the same mistake that is being made in modern society. That is precisely why we had to fight for our land because there is no control placed on business minded people in the world. There certainly have to be serious internal discussions on the question of unity within the Cree camp, so that we may eventually share a common vision on our future as a people. This is very important, in my view.

In this community anyway we have close to 100 per cent of the people who don't want Great Whale. They say there are other ways of getting jobs for our people. We have to remember what happened to the Cree jobs during the La Grande Complex. There were a lot of jobs for Crees but later there were hardly any jobs. The are a small number working for them today (*less than 20 -Ed*). There were all kinds of promises. There will be training and most of the jobs would be held by Crees in regards to the maintenance of the La Grande complex but that's not there.

What happens is there are explorations of all kinds for the possibility of mining and other types of resource development. We don't even know about them. I recently heard they had found gold in the La Grande area. They were seriously considering mining it. There are all kinds of claims by all sorts of people from out West, the U.S., etc., that are involved in this. I think we have to be careful over the long term with respect to how we approach getting employment for our people. My view is it is very dangerous to sit down with Hydro-Quebec and the Quebec government and talk about future development.

Because of the government's attempt to extinguish the human rights of a people to their own land and resources, it is not wise, in my opinion, to give up any more. We must go after the unfulfilled obligations of governments before serious discussion on further development can even be discussed.

I believe there is room for discussions with governments. But the political will must be to discuss future relationships between them and the Iiyiyuuch. It must be done.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

Well, I would like to thank my people for putting me back on the job. I want to thank a lot of people who encouraged me, people from the Grand Council and other communities. It is a difficult thing to go through elections, especially on the third term. Especially when you see all this major stuff coming up like Great Whale and the next referendum. I want to thank the Youth and Elders who encouraged me to stay on. Megwech!

The Chief, Council of Chisasibi
and Community Members

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TAKING BOUCHARD TO TASK

MATTHEW COON COME TALKS ABOUT MEETING THE PREMIER IN WASWANIPI

By William Nicholls

With all of the rumours flying around about Bourassa's bulldozers coming out of retirement, *The Nation* thought it would be a good idea to visit the man at the top of the Cree totem pole and ask him to shed some light on the situation. Grand Chief Coon Come was as candid as always, but some darkness remains.

As you'll see from Coon Come's interview, Hydro-Quebec's latest president is just as vague and evasive as the utility's past presidents. We find out that the government of Quebec will make the official announcement, if any, on whether Cree rivers are slated for death, or not. We learn the truth behind Premier Bouchard's visit to Waswanipi and that the Quebec media news reports were wrong when they said the Crees are surrendering and "giving in" to Hydro-Quebec's desires for Crees to sacrifice more rivers.

In the end, it is an interview that leaves one wondering just what pressures are being placed on the Crees' top leadership.

***The Nation*: I guess the question on everyone's mind is what is going on? First of all, the spin doctors and the papers have all been saying the Crees have broken down and have given away the Great Whale and Rupert rivers. The headlines say, "Crees Hail Bouchard," and they talk about revenue-sharing and the Rupert as being allowed to be diverted. Could you explain that?**

Matthew Coon Come: I always found it interesting how the journalists can write the way they do when they weren't in those meetings. It's amazing because it depends whether they're the separatists, the federalists or if they're more liberal-minded. It depends on how they perceive the meeting and what angle they want to use to sell their paper.

For the Crees, we've never hesitated to meet with the premiers like Bouchard, Rene Levesque, Parizeau or Bourassa. We felt we should take these governments to task and test their sincerity in dealing with the Crees of Quebec. The meetings we had with Bouchard were get-together, acquaintance meetings. There were no agreements; there were no understandings. Nothing was signed. Basically we wanted to take the opportunity to exert our views and principles.

We clearly stated to him that while we are having this meeting or there's a launching of the Waswanipi sawmill, we are far from resolving our problems and our relationship between Quebec and the Crees. That we will continue to exert our rights and our status. That we will continue to exert our right to self-determination. If there is to be any so-called new relationship between the Crees and Quebec, for it to be meaningful there has to be meaningful recognition enlarging our present land base so we have full ownership, jurisdiction and control over Iiyuuschii.

If there is to be a meaningful relationship, it has to include the benefits of extraction of resources from our land whether it be mining, forestry or other natural resources. We clearly told them that there should be revenue-sharing, the sharing of the wealth of the land. There should be royalties from any project taking place on Iiyuuschii.

We certainly told them we want our right to self-determination, genuine self-government. We want to talk about resources, land, equitable rights. We took the high road in informing him of what I call Cree traditional demands. That's land, resources, equitable rights, genuine self-government and the right to self-government. Those will not change. Those are non-negotiable principles.

> The meetings we had with Bouchard were get-together, acquaintance meetings. There were no agreements; there were no understandings. Nothing was signed.

I think Bouchard understood because he said he recognized those are Cree principles because of all the meetings between the Crees and Quebec that have taken place for the last two years.

I told him that in the last two years we've seen nothing from Quebec from the MOU meeting (*Memorandum of Understanding signed between Crees and Quebec -Ed*). I also told him it is reasonable to expect that his government fulfills its obligations under the JBNQA and we should talk about those services and programs without giving up our positions.

So from then on, that's when Bouchard stated very clearly his government's position. He started directing and questioning (Resources) Minister (Guy) Chevrette and giving instructions on what needs to be done. He talked about priority lists. He talked about time schedules as to when this should be resolved. So that gave a signal to the chiefs that there was an understanding here, that we needed a premier to kick-start this process. But only time will tell where that will go.

Cont'd on page 14

We did not talk about Great Whale. We did not talk about any hydro-electric projects of any nature. That was not up for discussion. But we talked about our right to self-determination. He definitely understood because he clearly came out and said we are at the opposite spectrum. He may have seen it as a historical meeting for him. We did not see it as that. I'm a young Grand Chief. I have seen and met with Bourassa, Rene Levesque, Parizeau and now Bouchard. I've seen them come and go. I clearly stated to him, even at the press conference, that my people will not believe until they have touched, until they have seen, until the Elders, if we're talking about Elders' homes, can walk into those homes. If we talk about CEGEP, that young Crees can walk into that CEGEP. That those young people must touch and feel before we can believe what Quebec officials tell us.

So spin doctors from their side, of course, would want to show Bouchard meeting with Crees and hopefully smiling Crees. I mean no premier comes up into the territory without expecting something, or without making an announcement.

We are well aware of that. We as leaders will not shy away from meeting any premier or prime minister, whether it's federal or provincial officials, to tell them of our views. It's important to tell them of Cree positions in a face-to-face situation. I think it's important, because it sets the stage, the framework of where we are coming from.

Do you think we'll finally start to see results from the MOU?

Well, we never referred to it as the MOU when we met with Bouchard. We talked about meaningful relationships and fulfilling past obligations. I'm not sure as to how that will work out, but I know that he will present it to his cabinet and we'll have to wait and see. The Crees will not believe until we see and touch it. Until we see it at the grassroots level.

One of the other burning questions concerns your recent meeting with the new head of Hydro-Quebec. Was that an exploratory meeting on the part of Hydro?

He had called a meeting. Again, I think it's a get-acquainted meeting because he's the new president and they are restructuring. I agreed to meet him because he wanted a one-on-one. I felt comfortable because I knew the position of the Crees. I certainly did not hesitate to meet him and when we did, of course, he began with his background. He was a former deputy minister, he was the environmental administrator who approved all the James Bay I projects. He was a businessman because he worked for Gaz Metropolitain. He was telling me some of what he sees that needs to be done at Hydro-Quebec and where he sees HQ going in the future.

What was interesting was that he mentioned his father was a farmer. His father worked the fields, fished the rivers and farmed the land. He said if a road was built through his father's land, he wouldn't be surprised if his father would want to have a say in what was happening on his land. He used that analogy to say he understood the Crees and the trappers whose land would be affected by hydro-projects.

We talked about local participation and partnerships, etc. He gave me some of the past HQ problems, where it came from and where it's going.

I figured it was my chance to tell him what we think as Crees. Hydro-Quebec has signed agreements with the Crees starting in 1975 and all the complementary agreements, and there are still major issues to implement. I said, You haven't done anything. Look at the mercury problem, that needs to be resolved. You've undertook to look at mitigating works (*repairs to damaged areas -Ed*), but you neatly exempted James Bay I and those projects from any environmental assessment. If you haven't done impact assessments, how can you carry out proper mitigating works programs? We talked about the energy-subsidy program and the problems we've had with that. I talked about the water-supply problem that happened by diverting the Eastmain River. That's the drinking water problem that Eastmain has. We need to discuss and deal with that. I talked about the problems we face. Like the Chisasibi people and the impacts those projects have had on them.

No matter what our positions were in the past, Hydro-Quebec has certain obligations to the Crees because of the agreements. That I would not let Hydro-Quebec off the hook. We would still be taking them to task regarding their commitments to the Crees.

Following that, I was trying to get him to tell me what projects they anticipated and he couldn't tell me. All I could get from him was that they would undertake some studies, some scientific research. That's nothing new. That's in the JBNQA. Crees can't prevent Hydro-Quebec from carrying out their feasibility studies or scientific research, etc.

I asked, What areas. I said, Like EM-1? He said they were still looking at that. I was asking about Lake Bienville and said I was aware that was part of the original project that was part of James Bay I. He said, Well, we'll have to look at that. He was very vague and said there's no specific project. It was very clear to me that they would undertake studies and they would not make an announcement. Also it would be the government of Quebec that would make the announcements. I think Hydro-Quebec would have to get permission from the government.

So I think it's premature to say that there's Great Whale, that there is Lac Beinville, that there is EM-1, because I'm not even sure they know what is feasible. So we'll have to leave it at that, but one thing is clear that any modifications to the La Grande Complex of 1975 and complementary agreements require Cree consent, whatever that may mean. You have the right to say yes and the right to say no. So far, the Crees' position has been very clear and I think he understood that. I think the people have to see what those projects are between LG-1 and LG-4, R-11 or EM-1, Lac Bienville. Your guess is as good as mine.

When they attempted to do James Bay Phase II, a.k.a. Great Whale, they had to do studies, feasibility or impact, etc. After the announcement, they had to go and do all these studies and go through the environmental processes. In the meantime, we fought the project while the studies, etc. were ongoing.

You must remember before we fought Great Whale, the announcement was made by Bourassa, so that's why we began, even though in the Agreement it talked about the possibility of Great Whale and the NBR. We had to wait until the official announcement was made. They were trying to do their studies, so we pushed for environmental and social-impact studies, public hearings and debates. We don't want to jump the gun.

Chief Billy Diamond said this is just a water-rights issue. Do you agree with that?

We've always used the water-rights argument. This is nothing new. In fact the U.S. Indians are more advanced in this area than Canada. Great Whale itself was a land, water and rights issue from Day One.

Will this subject be part of the agenda at the GCCQ/CRA Annual General Assembly?

Any time there's an announcement, it will definitely be on the table at the AGA. But more specifically, it will also be looked at by the communities that will be directly affected.

Abel Bosum

Chief of Ouje-Bougoumou

Personally I'm not surprised that Hydro-Quebec has studied alternative ways of getting some power from the North. I think it's they're biggest source. I think we would have been a little naive not to think that while the Great Whale River project was being delayed—probably more for political reasons—that quietly and secretly people in Hydro-Quebec were given instructions to look at alternatives. And I think this has happened.

While I was happy to hear they had shelved it some time ago when Jacques Parizeau announced it, I felt there was a reason behind it. It was not really to please the Cree people. It was perhaps the thing to do given the political climate. They probably wanted to focus on something else in Quebec in preparation for the whole question of the referendum.

Now that that's behind us, Bouchard has concentrated on bringing down the deficit and so forth. I think he has to in order to establish credibility. I don't think the people of Quebec can always rely on commotion, on being an independent country, without really addressing its financial and economic situation. I think Bouchard knew very well at the time, even though the commotion and the feelings were high, the reality was that Quebec was in a bad shape—and probably not in a good shape to even negotiate with the rest of Canada on any kind of economic arrangement.

Now that it has gone through a couple of years of cutting, it appears it has drawn the deficit down. Quebec elections are coming up and the popularity has somewhat dropped for the separatists. I think the fact that the Bloc in the federal election dropped is an indication of that. So I would think that the PQ strategy would be to find a way of getting some support.

The federal elections have always gone well when the issue is about jobs and employment. That is what hits home, the bread and butter issues. Here in Quebec it's no different. The types of jobs that are normally created in hydro-electric projects, all the construction, a lot of suppliers, the forestry industry is a large contributor of that, mining—the major industries in Quebec are contributors in one way or another. It's a big economic impact for them. So it's a fine way of pleasing individuals who are looking for jobs and the industries, and particularly the unions who are upset right now. From a strategic point, it's better to upset them now and then show your generosity, appearing to understand and compromising just before an election. To me, it's a part of an overall strategy.

So it's going to be a difficult time for the Crees. I think Bouchard is not really taking the Crees very lightly and that is why he has visited the Crees, just to hear them out, just to see who his opponents are face to face, I think also to see what kind of solidarity there is among the Crees and of course to see what are our needs. Sometimes our needs can also be interpreted as our weaknesses. Those are what we expect.

I believe it's going to be a very tricky time for the Crees to really assess a number of things, beginning with principles they have with regards to the massive flooding that this may cause, the impact that may have. Crees have gained a lot of credibility on some of the principles they've been pushing in this province. So it's going to be a big test that they don't compromise on their principles in exchange for enhancement or community development. It's going to be something worth discussing in the Cree communities and I think the leadership has to get out and has to talk with the people. We can't wait 'till the 11th hour to react. And that could be a danger if we don't do something quickly.

Bertie Wapachee

Spokesperson and chairman of the Cree Nation Youth Council

What is your reaction as a youth on the Hydro-Quebec plans to divert the Great Whale and Rupert rivers into the existing La Grande Complex?

Bertie Wapachee: Over the years listening to the plans of Hydro-Quebec, one of them being the plan to make a big lake out of Iiyuuschii, in the heart of Cree territory, this is something I've always kept in mind. Something I never hoped for. I guess though that is something that is slowly coming into the picture. Something that is starting to happen.

But then again I don't know when this fight will stop, if it will ever end. I think it is a fight that will always be in our backyards because that's where it is.

Do you as a youth representative think it is premature to fight the project right now? Should we look at the offers or say no way, the last promises haven't been kept?

Looking at it from a youth standpoint, if we look around in the past 20 years sure it has been wonderful with some of the agreements being partially fulfilled, but there's always a part that hasn't been fulfilled by federal and provincial governments or Hydro-Quebec. So on one hand we're over here with the JBNQA bible.

My position with what has been announced here is that we shouldn't even allow studies to happen. We are never going to get to the end of getting both governments to fulfill their obligations under the Agreements.

We are sitting with our hands in our pockets thinking everything is working out when we look at the Agreement, but it's not. The Agreement itself, there's a lot of obligations that are unfulfilled. Already we're looking at doing another fight. We don't even know if this thing is on the negotiating table already. We don't know that.

It's hard to say what's going on from a youth point of view. It's something I don't want to see any more of unless I have a pretty good understanding or it's confirmed with me that all the obligations from the federal, provincial and Hydro-Quebec have been fulfilled. If that's not the case, then I don't think we should get into any type of negotiations with these governments or even just allow them to do the study.

When you allow them to do the study, for these people it's a step closer to allowing them to complete their plan. To go ahead with their plans to divert the Rupert, Eastmain and then Great Whale into La Grande. Basically whatever decisions are made from here will have an impact again for the future generations. This is something we have to really consider now because today what we see in the impacts the first project had on our people, we are still trying to cope with it. How much of an impact will it have on the future generations if we let these people go ahead with these studies? Like I said, once you allow them to do the studies then they are one step closer to actually develop whatever they will.

First things first, no agreement, no study until the first is honoured.

Do you think information on new developments should be given to the people as soon as it happens?

First of all, there's not a lot of communication in all areas of the Cree Nation, whether it be from one entity to another or from the Cree government to the people. It's one thing that hasn't been done is to ensure that the grassroots people are informed of what's coming up. So far we only get to see it in *The Nation* and hear it on the radio every now and then.

Cont'd on page 17

On behalf
of the members of the
WHAPMAGOOSTUI CREE COMMUNITY
the WFN Corporation wishes
to congratulate the following persons
who have been elected
to sit as Chief and Council of
Whapmagoostui First Nation
for the next three years:

Matthew Mukash	Chief
George Masty, Jr.	Councillor
Josie George	Councillor
Robbie Masty	Councillor
Andrew Kawapit (Elder)	Councillor
Pakesso Mukash (Youth)	Councillor
James Masty	Councillor

Special congratulations to Chief Mukash
for having been re-elected
for another term by a very large majority (70%).
Best Wishes to all,
and may God bless each and everyone of you.

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The leaders have to come out and inform the people on what's been happening. More like being in close contact with the people in whatever developments are coming up with Hydro and anything else. There's a lack of consultation, I find, coming from the Cree government to their people. That's something I would like to see - changes in the communications between the two.

A lot of young people are not informed or aware of what is happening. They might jump to conclusions every now and then, but there's a need to build our communications within the Cree Nation. We see a lot of things happening. It's good to have *The Nation* around because they're the people who inform us of these things. The stories that come out, if it's from Hydro or whoever, it's *The Nation* that brings it out.

Do you see Hydro-Quebec as the enemy of the Crees?

Back in 1975 I guess so, but now I think we are becoming our own enemies. If we all look at our opinions, points of views on different issues, the activities of Hydro-Quebec and forestry, the trappers have their own opinions and this is to preserve the land. But even there not all of them agree because some of them agree to a $10,000-a-year fee (*from the forestry companies*) and that's it.

The youth on the other hand are looking for jobs but at the same time some youth are against any type of natural-resource development. Some people call it economic development. Right now some of our leaders are using Iiyuuschii as a source of economic development.

It shouldn't be looked at in that way because all we are doing is we're stopping ourselves from going beyond the Agreement. It can't be done because it's not in the Agreement. Right now it seems it has become more than just a book but our new bible. A lot of our people may feel we can't go any further or beyond the Agreement. There's a lot that can be done concerning economic development without it being done at the expense of Iiyuuschii.

In a few areas we are sort of a mixed up nation. Just to make it clear, I'm against any further development coming from Hydro-Quebec or forestry or whatever it might be. We have to start looking at the impact it might have on our children and the others who might come. We have to start looking further, not just for ourselves, and I hope that all the Cree Nation will feel the same way.

Johanne Fillion

Greenpeace Quebec

(Greenpeace is a member of a new coalition of groups protesting any new projects and the deregulation of Hydro-Quebec.)

The big picture is simple. We want a moratorium on all Hydro projects and to have public hearings on the state of the rivers and what they are intending to do and on what is the mandate of Hydro-Quebec. We believe they are going beyond their mandate. It goes with a Parliamentary Commission which just gave its report and it said basically, no deregulation in Hydro-Quebec. There was a general consensus that Hydro-Quebec is going way beyond its mandate and should be stopped.

With the arrival of André Paillé (*Hydro's new president -Ed.*), he has new plans for Hydro-Quebec to make it a highly profitable company. He is managing it as a private company and it's not a private company. It's a public utility company and it should be managed according to the wishes of the Quebec population, not only his own beliefs.

I listened to a show he was on two nights ago and he said he has 7 million shareholders to satisfy. Well, these shareholders are asking only one thing from Hydro-Quebec, which is the first mandate HQ should have: the best prices for the consumers. Not for companies, not for big multinationals, not for the States. It's for Quebecers.

Personally, I'm a shareholder of Hydro-Quebec and I feel they should consult me before developing in ways we don't want. We don't want the direction of rivers to be changed because they want to produce more for the neighbours. Also we know that some people will have to pay the price. These people are not living in Montreal. They are living sometimes in remote areas. But they are hostage to a lack of planning and a lack of judgement from two or three individuals in the company. It's not what is going to happen in a public company. Private company is going to do so, but at least we have the power to change a public company and to make the right decisions.

There are some projects we agree on with Hydro-Quebec. We like the windpower. We feel they should invest more in renewables. It's an old statement, but Greece is now making 100 kilowatt-hours of solar power. Where are we with solar? I mean they don't have the technology we have. They don't have the finances and the engineers we have. Where are we on solar? We are nowhere in Quebec.

We have the highest potential of wind in Quebec of all of North America. Where are we on wind? We are only 10 megawatts. Once again we are missing the boat to create employment. We have a feeling that there is a big lack of creativity at Hydro-Quebec for creating jobs. Jobs are not only in rivers. Jobs can be in energy efficiency and wind and solar power. Obviously we have old-timers using their whole minds for old creativity.

Con'd on page 19

Ouje-Bougoumou Forestry Meeting

in Ouje-Bougoumou, July 8th, 1997

Whereas the Ouje-Bougoumou people have a special relationship with the land, with the living things, the water and the air which comprise our traditional territory; and additionally, have a unique and distinct responsibility to look after the well-being of the land, the water and all living things which are within our traditional territory which has been passed on to us for safeguarding since time immemorial, and

Whereas the Ouje-Bougoumou people hereby further acknowledge our responsibility to protect the well-being of our traditional territory in all the activities which are proposed or implemented within our traditional territory, and

Whereas it is the obligation of the current generations to ensure that the land and its resources are available for future generations, and

Whereas there is a particular concern for the economic well-being of the current Ouje-Bougoumou youth, and

Whereas the clear-cutting of forests on the Ouje-Bougoumou traditional territory has occurred and continues to occur on a massive scale, and

Whereas the current clear-cutting of the forest endangers the land, the water and the animals on the traditional Ouje-Bougoumou territory, and

Whereas the current clear-cutting of the forest on the Ouje-Bougoumou traditional territory jeopardizes the future economy of Ouje-Bougoumou, and

Whereas the current clear-cutting of the forest on the Ouje-Bougoumou traditional territory is carried out without regard to the views and requirements of the Ouje-Bougoumou trappers and hunters, and

Whereas the current clear-cutting of the forest on the Ouje-Bougoumou traditional territory is not compatible with the philosophy of sustainable development, and

Whereas the current clear-cutting of the forest on the Ouje-Bougoumou traditional territory is carried out within the context of Quebec's *Forestry Act*, and

Whereas there is significant concern about current clear-cutting of the forest on the Ouje-Bougoumou traditional territory on the part of non-aboriginal people in the region and elsewhere,

Therefore, be it resolved:

That the Ouje-Bougoumou Cree Nation hereby agrees to support and participate in legal action undertaken by the Grand Council of the Crees in support of Cree rights in the area of forestry and forestry protection, and

That the Ouje-Bougoumou Cree Nation will work closely with the Grand Council of the Crees in the development and launching of a public campaign directed at current forestry practices which are permitted under Quebec's *Forestry Act* to the detriment of the environment and to the detriment of the Cree people, and

That the Ouje-Bougoumou Cree Nation will undertake the development of a forest management plan which is based on the concerns, needs and philosophy of the Ouje-Bougoumou people, and

That the Ouje-Bougoumou Cree Nation will undertake discussions with forestry companies operating on its traditional territory to attempt to identify sensitive areas for protection in the context of current forestry operations, and

That the Ouje-Bougoumou Cree Nation will consult intensively with our trappers and hunters to determine the scope of compensatory benefits which would be acceptable, and

That the Ouje-Bougoumou Cree Nation will attempt to enter into discussions with the forestry companies operating on the traditional territory with the objective of identifying possible employment opportunities in the short term, and

That the Ouje-Bougoumou Cree Nation will attempt to enter into discussions for interim compensation in respect of damages which occurred to the territory and to the well-being of our hunters and trappers,

Proposed by: Paul Shecapio, Seconded by: Gordon Bosum
Adopted May 27,1997 at
Ouje-Bougoumou Eenuch Association Members

Are you prepared?

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Gilbert Pilot

Innu community leader from Mani-Utenam

The four river diversions in the Innu homeland Nitassinan will primarily affect the community of Betsiamites. It is a community 300 kilometres to the west of ours. But the impact will touch everybody. To divert the four rivers will totally destroy the life of the wildlife in this area. The other impact will be on the traditional way of life. It will make it much harder for families to have access to the products of the land and of hunting. It will force families to relocate elsewhere, to go to other areas which are already affected by forestry. There is a lot of clearcutting in the region.

For us, it's more the cumulative impacts, as we call them. Hydro development and the cutting of the forests which will follow have a cumulative impact. For years we have been feeling the after-effects here. As we are speaking, my friend, the region is feeling climactic changes. We've been noticing climactic changes for years. For example, on the Moisie River, which is well-known around the world for its salmon, it is very, very hard to find salmon. People are saying there is no more salmon there. They are worried.

It's because it's too cold. To the north of where we are, there are lakes that are still frozen up. This is abnormal, very abnormal. Normally the fish would swim upriver at this time of year, but with the low temperatures they aren't doing this. We go by observation. The river is changing—the current also. It affects the salmon.

That's one of the cumulative effects I was talking about. There is also a plan to divert two other rivers in our region which are tributaries of the Mosie and would reduce its water level. This would further affect the fish.

I am in the middle of finishing a document from the families in our community which will be presented this summer at the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Peoples. We will ask the UN to proclaim Nitassinan as a universal heritage zone and to protect this area from hydro and other development. There is a lot of development that is coming and this is very dangerous.

Eva and George Bosum

Two years ago I nominated Eva and George Bosum, two Cree Elders from Ouje-Bougoumou, for a National Aboriginal Achievement Award. This nomination was based on visits my family had with the Bosums on their traditional land near Ouje-Bougoumou. During these visits we came to know and respect Eva and George Bosum as individuals and representatives of Cree Elders with very close ties to the land and who actively practice traditional skills and share them with the youth of their nation.

—D. Elliot Rodger, Ottawa

Have you seen the snowshoes they make? Simple beauty. Supreme function. Instruments of survival. Works of art. Made from the land. Made for the land. Over five thousand years. Timeless. Like Eva and George Bosum. Moosehide and birch. Working together. Like Eva and George Bosum.

Have you seen their faces? Faces of dignity. Creased with strength and gentleness. As their hands. Strong and skilled—to set a beartrap. Gentle and skilled—to skin a marten. Have you laughed with them—at the wind that holds their camp? At the rain that makes their tea. Their laughter—quiet as their conversation. Like the land lying quiet. Free from the noise of mechanism, the offense of crowds, the stink of pollution. They are the land.

"Elders are symbols of who we are," said Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come. In a speech at the community celebration at Ouje-Bougoumou on October 24, 1995 he emphasized the significance of Elders to aboriginal people. He stated, "The land is our soul," and, "Elders represent the land for what it is."

Elders embody the culture, the values, the traditions and traditional knowledge of aboriginal oeple—the foundation of the future of aboriginal people. Demonstrated consistently by successes in the application of aboriginal justice, in personal rehabilitation and the renewal of aboriginal communities like Ouje-Bougoumou.

Eva and George Bosum have spent their lives in the bush—their land is their life. They are a team. Now in their elder years, they spend as much time in the bush as they can, returning to their village as necessary. They live from the land, depending on fishnets, traps and firearms to supply much of their food. Their tents, moccasins, axe handles, paddles and much of their other equipment are self-made. Each is a necessity for survival and a work of art, as it was for their predecessors.

Eva and George Bosum have twice welcomed our family into their bushcamps. They have openly offered the warmth of their fires and themselves. They have shared their stories, their knowledge, their skills and their food. We have enjoyed their quiet humour, marvelled at their oneness with the woods. We have come away with a profound respect for them as people and for what they represent in terms of their values towards others (even strangers) and towards the natural environment.

Eva and George Bosum have no resumés, no degrees, no lists of publications or awards. Their achievements are not so tangible. But have you seen their snowshoes? Have you seen them set beartraps in a cold driving rain when you are standing shivering? Have you seen them smile at adversity? Have you experienced their generosity and patience?

Eva and George Bosum represent a people who have survived in a harsh environment for five thousand years. "Elders symbolize our history," said Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come. They are the carriers of the values and the skills to their own people. They are the links to the past and links to the future of their people.

Moosehide and birch. Eva and George Bosum. From the land. Timeless. Together. As the past and the future. They are Elders.

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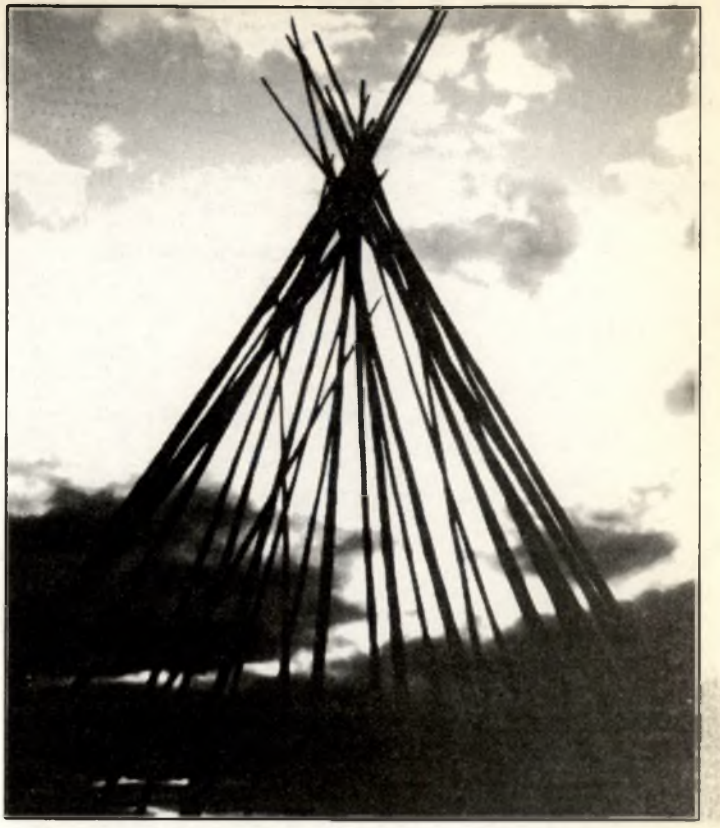

I

The story of the one bullet.
Many individuals during the depression
did not have enough ammunition.

My brother Percy had been one of them.
In fact he had only one bullet all spring.
He kept his bullet.
Been hungry one day he used his one bullet.

My brother couldn't risk missing, his last and only bullet
It must have pained him to see the geese fly by.
At that time there were flocks upon flocks
The irony of this story we're still in the depression.

Only it's the other way around.
The hunters of today have lots of ammunition
But no geese.

And whatever happened to the old green duck parkas.
They are replaced by camouflage outfits designed for Combat.
The new hunters of today look more like soldiers.

II

Our little elan ski-doo was fine 20 years ago.
Now I see these powerful expensive ski-doos.

Everything is on a bigger scale.
Goose break is big business.

There are many things we experience
during goose break that are not
experienced anywhere else.

When on a slump my husband says
The geese came circling from nowhere
just when I was having my tea
for as long as humanly possible I was
trying to control my bladder, then
I have to leave for the underbrush
the geese doing 30 miles an hour or so
came straight in my direction.

No gun I left it at the blind.

My hunting buddies told me, just five
minutes after you left for home a flock
came in to the pond and landed.

I've heard this phrase many times.
In fact every spring hunt.

III

This spring
The month of May.
Winter was still in the works
the continuous cold made me have
earaches, sore throat.
Maybe I drop my defences against winter
too soon.

But in May spring should have arrived
Not this time the cold spell dragged
on and on.

Nevertheless we build our smoke teepees
during this period of cold weather
shoveling mountains of snow

The geese wait for no one they are
pressed for time
So the countdown is on
Are they going to fly tomorrow through
high winds, rain or snow flurries

Margaret Sam Cromarty

A SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR GRADUATING STUDENTS

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES OF 1997

JAMES BAY EEYOU SCHOOL, CHISASIBI:

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Lyle Cox
Nian Bobbish

French
Rachelle Lafonde
Sarah Rupert
Sean Spencer

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Marcel Moses
Yvon Gilpin

French
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Paul Moses

VOYAGEUR MEMORIAL SCHOOL, MISTISSINI:

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Twyla Linton
John Matoush
Jon Henry Mianscum
Simeon Petawabano
Rita Rabbitskin
Daniel Savides

French
Nellie Brien
Sharon Mianscum
Rachel Neeposh
Lynn Shecapio

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Jeanette Shashaweskum
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Gloria Marie J. George
Linda George
Gideon Kawapit
John Kawapit
Charlotte Masty
Patrick Masty
Ablayza Moar
Richie Rupert Sandy

Family

My love of my family and
The love of my children
I am happy to have a big family
It takes a lot of courage to believe
In one another and I know that
We have a lot of love in our hearts
It's time to show the love we have inside
We must first learn to love for who we are
To let go of the pain of our beloved Mother
It's time to share the pain and
Most important thing is to change
Our lives in a different way so our children
Can learn from us. I believe that a lot

This message dedicated to my love of my family in Nemaska, Abel Jolly, my sisters, brothers. With lots of love, Ruby Jolly xoxoxox

"My Friend"

On March 2, was born a baby girl
So sweet, so little, so innocent
Hair so dark and skin so fair
How I love the baby girl

I watched her grow from baby to now
Sometimes we argued, sometimes we talked
We had our ups and downs throughout the years
But I still love the baby girl

The baby girl is no more
For she is a woman now
A woman who is my Friend
A Friend so dear to me

My friend is my daughter
My friend is my hope
My friend is my dream
My dream for each tomorrow

I dedicate this poem to my daughter, Caroline Rabbitskin, celebrating her birthday March 2, 1997. Happy Birthday, dear daughter and friend. I Love You. Love Mom, Lillian

In Memory of Jossey Gunner

It's been one year that you left this world
You left me with a lot of good memories
You took me in your family as your very own chhild
You treated me equally from all your children
Even gave me a little more attention when I needed it
Every time I think of you I can still hear your laugh and see you smile

Sometimes when I think of you tears start to
Roll down my face, I feel happy and sad at the same time
Happy because I will never forget your good
Sense of humour, sad because I will never see you again

You never told me that you loved me, but just by
Calling me "my son" meant everything. I always felt
Important when you called me my son

I know that you're above me and you're guiding me to the right path in life.

From your grandson who loves you and misses you.

How can we forget

To us you were someone special
Someone good and true
You will never be forgotten
Because we thought the world of you

We think of you in silence
Each and every day
The day will always be remembered
How can we forget

Silent tears will always flow
For what it meant to lose you
Only we will ever know
How much we miss you so

One month ago, this very day
The Lord took you away
He heard you say, "Please, no more pain"
He closed your eyes and took you to a better place

He saw you getting tired
When a cure was not to be
He wrapped his arms around you
And then he whispered "come home with me"

You faced your pain with courage
Your spirit didn't bend
You suffered much in silence
Until the very end

The days now dawn with sad regrets
For a special person, no one can replace
The day will always be remembered
Oh, how can we forget

Dedicated to Charlie Coonishish, who died of cancer on December 23, 1996, from daughter Maggie Coonishish-Petawabano and the Coonishish family. We wish to thank all those who gave us comfort in our grief, especially Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come and his wife, Mary Ann, and all their lovely children. Thank you so much, and for all the Prayers!

CLASSIFIEDS

101-BIRTHS

Congratulations to Brenda Iserhoff and bro Eric Grondin on the birth of their second boy born May 24, 1997. We want you to know that we care and love you a lot. From your family in Waswanipi. XXX

Congratulations to Nanny Gull to his new baby boy! born on April 25, 1997. May God bless you all. take care and good luck! Love in friendship, Mary Ann Gull.

Congratulations! to Shannon Trapper and Darwyn Chum on the birth of their baby girl Rayannon Jennica Alexandra Chum born on May 22, 1997. baby sister fro dawn trapper and Rylan and Eldon Chum. Love, Shawna and Caroline T. in Moose factory.

101-BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to my "Jajuna" on her 2nd birthday on July 22nd. Love from your uncles and aunties in Moosonee.

I'd like to wish my granddaughter happy birthday on July 22nd. Happy birthday Jajuna. Love from granny Alisappi in Moosonee.

We would like to wish a happy birthday to our special daughter Irish Awashish on June 15, 97. Hope all your dreams come true. We love you very much. Love always, mom, dad and your little brothers.

Happy 5th birthday to our son Tyson Lazarus on July 10. We love you! From Mommy, daddy, Tanita and Trisha. xoxoxoxo.

Happy 4th birthday to our neighbor, Alex MacDonald, July 9 and happy birthday to my brother Warren McKee also on July 9. Hope you have a great day! Love, Jeannie Bill, Tanita, Tyson and Trisha.

I would like to wish my aunt Ellen Pepabano happy birthday on June 18, 1997. Thank you for all your caring moments you've shared with me and your loving care. Love, Sebastien Coon Come.

Happy birthday to sexy eyes Jerry Lameboy on July 1st. I just can't wait to see you again because you're always making me high. I'll be waiting for you, I'm the one who wants to love you more. Wask.

Happy 5th birthday to my son Eldon Chum on May 22nd. love you always, daddy and Shannon. xoxoxo. miss you.

Happy birthday to my brother Eldon Chum. Love, your baby sister Rayannon in Moose Factory.

Happy birthday to my husband Clifford Hester on July 4. I'm glad I have someone like you, to plan and to talk with. To laugh with and walk with, to cherish and love. happy birthday. With all my love, Mary (Wask)

We would like to wish our dad Clifford Hester a happy birthday on July 4. Dad...It's not too often that you hear it but thank you for your love, your constant support and for being a very special man. Happy birthday and we love you. From your children, Brian, Adam, Ross, Anthony, George, Geraldine and Adrian (Wask.)

We would like to wish a happy birthday to our son Sherman James Shecapio. he will be thirteen on July 18. Happy birthday and many more to come. We love you and God bless. From mom and dad (Waskaganish)

We would like to wish a happy birthday to our brother Sherman James Shecapio. His birthday will be on July 18, 1997. Happy birthday brother and many more to come. From your brother Derland and Gabriel. Wask.

Happy birthday to my husband John Shecapio on June 19. I love you very much and I always will as long as we both shall live. From your wife Darlene. P.S. You and Lazarus hold a special place in my heart.

Happy birthday to my dad John Shecapio on June 19. Dad, I love you with all my little heart. You're the best dad a boy could have and dad have a great one with me and Mommy and once again I love you so much. From your one and only son Lazarus Shecapio.

Happy birthday to our sister Elizabeth Neeposh on July 22, 1997. We wish you all the best on your birthday and we hope you will have a good time. Take care of yourself and we love you. From Cynthia, Terry, daisy Neeposh.

Happy birthday to my son Wayne on July 15, 1997 and to my daughter Jennica on July 21, 1997. I wish you both the best in the years to come. Both of you are so special to me in every way and I will always love you both forever. Love always, Daisy Neeposh. xoxoxoxoxo

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We would like to wish a happy father's day to our dad Johnny J Neeposh. We hope we'll see you soon. Take care. We love you even though we don't say it that much. From daisy, Terry, Don, Cynthia Neeposh.

To a very special sister who will be turning almost forty on July 12. Jane Swallow and a brother who's over the hill Jimmy R. Fireman on July 4th. I miss you and I love you both very much. Happy birthday to you both. Sis, Kathleen in Waskaganish.

Happy birthday to my nephew Wayne on July 15, 97 and to my niece Jennica on July 21, 1997. I hope both of you have a blast on your birthday and may all your dreams come true. I wish you both the best in the years to come. Take good care. From Cynthia N.

I would like to wish my two best friends in Eastmain a upcoming birthdays. To Alexandra Gilpin on June 23rd and to Misty Cheezo on July 13th. I hope you guys have a nice time on your birthdays. Sorry I won't be there on your birthday Misty but I'll still remember. I'll call you guys sometime this week girls. From your best friend Nian Moses in St. Adolphe.

Happy 21st birthday to the craziest yet very beautiful, sophisticated and intelligent Tina Iserhoff of Chisasibi. I hope you didn't think I would forget your most important day of the year which is on June 14. I hope to see you soon and don't forget to behave.

CLASSIFIEDS

Beeligoom # 1.

To Clarence James Jolly. Happy 6th birthday on July 5. From your friend Kylash.

Happy birthday to a very sweet lady Phoebe Blacksmith. I would just like to wish you a happy birthday. All the way from the deep woods of James Bay. Hope your day is as special and sweet as you are. You take care of yourself now. Don't .....too much now! See U at the pow wow. PD. xoxoxoxoxooxo.

These 15 birthday wishes are going out to a young lady who will be celebrating her birthday on June 7. With an outgoing and nice personality and a delightful smile that brightens up a room. These wishes will surely come true. Happy birthday Andrea JM. And many more years to come!!! From a friend from Wemindji, Hazel.

I would like to wish a happy belated birthday to my mother Clara Visitor on May 29. Also I would like to wish a happy birthday to Cain Stewart on June 12. Happy birthday to you both. Love, Alexandra Visitor.

Happy birthday to our friends Nathalie El on June 15 and Maryanne G. on June 26. Make shure you girls blow allllll...your candles. From your friends Clara, Nadia, Prescilla and Jonathan. Have fun!

Happy belated birthday wishes to Louie, June 6, Judy and Louise, June 17, Jimmie-Paul, June 18, Ronnie, June 24, Louise Sally, June 25, Jennifer, June 22 and Bebonne, June 26. All the best to all. From the Gang (Mistissini)

Belated birthday wish to a very special niece Marsha Kanatewat on May 21. It seems like only yesterday you were just a little baby, now you're turning 11 years old. Although this birthday wish is coming to you a little late, it doesn't mean your birthday isn't important to me. Because it is and so are you. You're always in my thoughts and I truly hope your birthday was a happy and wonderful time for you! Once again happy birthday. Luv ya! Judy.

For your birthday mom. We love you so dearly, you've done so much for us that once a year doesn't seem like enough to show our appreciation for you. If we could give you the world, we would. If there was a gift to say thank you, we would. But we don't think there could ever be anything we could give or say the love and gratitude we feel for you. We hope that our relationship show how much we treasure you. Everyday we thank God for you. We love your smile and your hugs that make everything seem better. We love the way you've touched our lives, how you've always been a part of it. We love you mom. And we carry your love in our hearts everyday for your strength, guidance and courage. It fills us with pride and joy to have you as a mother. To Janie Kanatewat (June 15) Love always, Judy and Claudine.

le PICK

I would like to test this internet thing and wish Minnie Wapachee from Ojay a happy belated birthday on June 12. I'm still late even though I sent it through e-mail. Anyway, I hope you had fun. TW

Brittany Gilpin who will celebrate her birthday on June 17, 1997. She will be eight years old on this day. With lots of love and kisses from your mom, Jane.

Happy 6th birthday to my sister Ashlyn Joy DM. I know we fight sometimes but I love you lots. Hugs and kisses. Love, your little brother Raymond Bo Moore.

Happy birthday to our sweet little girl Ashlyn Joy Diamond Moore on June 14th. Have a wonderful 6th birthday. We love you. Love, mom and dad, Lorna and Darren Moore.

Happy birthday to my two little nephews of mine Isaiah in June and Israel in July. I love you both so much. Lots of hugs and kisses. From auntie Samantha (Waswanipi) xoxoxoxoxoxoxoxooxoxo

Wishing a happy birthday to Edna B. Visitor on June ?? in Nemaska and also to Leona Cheezo on June 27, 1997 in Wemindji. With love and friendship from Charlotte and Ira and Wabin in Mistissini.

Wishing a happy birthday to my brother in law George and my adorable niece (who is growing so fast!!) Georgina Sealhunter. Wishing both the best on this special day, July 29!!! Sincerely, Wesley and Judy.

Belated birthday wish to my caring, understanding # 1 auntie Margaret Namagoose on June 13, 1997. Happy birthday auntie. Hope you had a wonderful time. With lots of love from your niece who adores you very much. I love you. From Greta.

Happy belated birthday greetings to my niece Marsha Kanatewat (Bush Lady). Her birthday was on May 21st. You're almost taller than me. Happy 11th birthday and many more years to come. I love you! Love, auntie Lorrainne (Chis)

On June 15th, 1997, is a special day for my mom Janie Kanatewat. Happy belated birthday mom. That's the same day for father's day. happy father's day dad (Robert) I would like to thank you both for the things you have done for me, not just for me, especially my brothers, sisters and your grandchildren. You both shown love and caring to us. I love you both so much with all my heart. Love always, your daughter Lorraine. xoxoxo (Chis)

Happy birthday to two special girls in Whap. Roselind Shem on June 20, Stephane Fleming on June 27. happy birthday to you both and many more to come. I miss you both. I hope I'll see you soon girls. From Jennifer in Mist.

Best birthday wishes going out to my grandmother Florrie Mayappo on June 14th. Have a wonderful birthday and many happy returns. I'm very sorry I couldn't be with you during the goosebreak and your birthday. Once again, special birthday wishes to you grandma. I love you. From your granddaughter in Waskaganish, Caitlyn Whiskeychan.

To a loving caring mother Florrie Mayappo. On June 14 is you birthday. These words I'm about to tell you weren't often heard. Thank you mom for your love and understanding. Deep n my heart there is a special place for you.. I love you and have the best birthday ever. With love, your son Gilbert Mayappo

To our mother Nellie Whiskeychan on June 15 is her birthday. We would like to tell you how much we love you. We love you with all our hearts. We wanna thank you for bringing us up in this world and above all thank you for loving us. With lots of love and hugs, your sons and daughters in Waskaganish. Happy birthday.

Happy birthday to Harvey Whiskeychan on June 12. How old are you now? May you have a peaceful birthday. Don't party. You have a wonderful day. Don't let anything bring you down on your birthday. Remember, it's a happy birthday. With love, Greta and Caitlin Whiskeychan.

Happy birthday Wilbert. I never thought I could fall in love again. God gave me another chance. He gave me you. You are truly heaven sent. I love you so very much. Everyday I tell you that. One more time I will tell you in front of the whole Cree Nation. I love you Wilbert. I will always love you. You are my Prince Charming. And I want to spend the rest of my life with you! But words cannot express truly how I feel. My feelings grow deeper than words in this poem. More than just a simple I love you. The feeling I have is overwhelming. I told you I wanted the whole world to know how much I love you. But for now I'll tell the whole Cree Nation. I love you Wilbert. Love always, Loreen.

Pat a cake, pat a cake baker's man, bake us a cake as fast as you can, roll it and pat it and mark it with a "V" and put it in the oven for Vanessa and us. Happy 3rd birthday to our daughter Vanessa on June 21st. With love, mom (Betsy), dad (Richard) and little brother Vinny.

Happy belated birthday wishes going out to Kitty L. Longchap on May 25th and Duane Bosum on May 31st. From Betsy, Richard, Vanessa and Vinny. Also a special birthday wish to Dinah Loon on June 22.

We would like to extend first birthday greetings to our niece Darla M. Hester. She'll be celebrating her birthday on June 5th, 1997. Happy 1st birthday, we love you and miss you. Oh! congratulations on you walking out ceremony on that same date. Gee! wish we could be there. But sorry we couldn't Mommy must know why. Anyways, happy 1st birthday and congratulations. With love, your aunties, RMA and JJ

A belated happy birthday to Darla Meredith Anna on June 5th. Darla, happy belated birthday and best wishes on your day and many more to come. Hope you had fun on your birthday and don't drink too much Grand Pre cause you're getting too chubby. Also happy 1st birthday to Terrell Leroy on June 4th. With love, Stephanie Kaye. Waskaganish.

Happy belated birthday to Sammy Trevor Lee Jacob Salt, March 6. Karraly Maria Rosena Hester, April 16. Paula Marie Salt, May 27. Terrell Leroy Hester, June 4. Darla Meredith Anna Hester, June 5. Happy 1st birthday to you all and many more to come. From the girls who live on C-3 Octave Drive. Waskaganish.

Happy birthday to Bella Jolly on July 12. Have fun on your special day. Don't cause any trouble or else you will end up in group home again. take care! Love in friendship, Bessie Gillies in Waskaganish. xoxoxo

Happy belated birthday to our special granddaughter Darla Hester on June 5. Happy belated birthday Darla. Remember we always love you. Hugs

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and kisses are sent to you. With love, grand ma and grandpa, also from your favorite auntie, Bernada Alice (Blue Green yellow.)xoxoxoxo

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Happy birthday to Sherilyn on July 3rd and many more to come. Love always, granny and grandpa in Wemindji.

Birthday wishes to my mom Hattie Cheezo who will be celebrating her 80th birthday on July 7. I love you mom and \I hope you have many more birthdays for us to celebrate with you. Love, Gloria.

Happy birthday to our baby sister Sherry Ann Tomatuk who will be celebrating her 9th birthday on July 11, 1997. We love you. Kenneth, Richard, Shawna, Sheldon and Katherine.

Happy birthday to our daughter Lorraine on June 26 who is celebrating her birthday in Kahnawake. Hope you have a good time and enjoy your special day. Wish you all the best. Take care and remember we love you very much. With our love, mom and dad, Marjorie and Thomas in Waskaganish.

I remember the day when you were born, July 11, 1988. I thought you'd never come out. After so many hours of labour you suddenly decided to pop out. What joy I felt when I was told, "It's a girl." Now, baby, you'll be celebrating your 9th birthday. Happy birthday Sherry-Ann and many, many more to come. Remember, you'll only be nine, not 19. So lay off those cigarettes. No more smoking on the trampoline. Love, mom and dad.

Wishing a happy birthday to a wonderful father and grandfather Clifford Washipabano on June 28th. May your day be as special as you are. Love always, Wesley, Charly, Judy and Catherine. XXXXXXXXXX.

Wishing a happy birthday to my cousin Luna and Christian on July 3. I'm so glad I have you as my cousins cause you're the best! Lots of hugs and kisses, your cousin, Wesley John Washipabano. xoxoxoxoxo

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A happy belated birthday to my pal Brandon Jessie (Sidery) Kawapit. From your pal Tylor (Owl Eyes) Natachequan. June 1st, 1997.

Wishing a happy birthday to my brother Warren McKee on July 9 and to my nephew Tyson Lazarus on July 10. Hope you enjoy your special day. Love from sis and auntie Cynthia.

Happy birthday to our grandmother Hattie Cheezo on July 7. You'll be 80 years old, but that's okay, granny, no matter how old you get, we'll love you just the same. Love always, your grandchildren, Kenneth, Richard, Shawna, Sheldon, Katherine and Sherry-Ann.

103-ANNIVERSARIES

I would like to wish Sandra and Mark MacDonald a happy 5th anniversary on July 10 and to my sister and brother in law Jeannie and Bill Lazarus a happy 6th anniversary on July 26. Wishing you all the best. Cindy.

Happy anniversary to Gloriash and George Sealhunter on June 29th. I wish you guys the best for the many years to come. I'm happy we've gotten close over the years cause your family means so much to Wesley and I. Take care.

Happy 26th anniversary on June 30th to my loving and caring parents, Thomas and Marjorie and we love you so much. From your children, Barry, Nelson, Lorraine, Joanne and Ashley. Waskaganish.

Happy 5th anniversary on July 10, to our friends Sandra and Mark MacDonald. From Jeannie, Bill and kids.

104-GRADUATIONS

To Stella Jane Snowboy who will graduate elementary this year. I hope you do well in high school and the best of luck in your future endeavors.

Congratulations to my nephew Kyle Napash and Brian Pepabano fro graduating kindergarten (Kyle) and elementary (Brian). I'm proud of you guys and I wish you the best. I love you both do much. With love, Pierrette.

Congrats to my daddy Bernard. I knew you could do it as soon as you set your mind to it. Happy graduation! Lots of love, your son Cody.

I would like to congratulate Bernard on his graduation. Happy graduation. Hope you enjoy your gifts. Love always, Natalie.

Congratulations to Arita on her grad. best of luck when you go off to college. You and Ger Ger better behave. Love, mom, dad, Sheldon, Gerri, Beatrice, Jerry, Derek, Steffani, Miigwin, Alannah, Natalie, Bernard and Cody.

300-PERSONALS

Houston....We have no problem. Himalayan girl missing from our trio. Signals coming in from Big River as we write. Good news from S.E.T.I. Looks like all systems are go. Repeat you have a green light. It is now or never. Odds are in your favour. Life is a risk...Take one! The Himalayan Twins await your arrival...

Hi to Sharon B/ned in Nemaska. I haven't heard from you for so long now. So, how is life? As for me, life is just great. Write back soon. From you know me (Waskaganish). xox. I miss you. Take care.!!

To our buddy Linda Shecapio!! Hope everything is going great over there. We are having a cool summer so far but we really miss you and Jarred. Hope to see you in Val d' Or. Take care. Friends always, Judy and Cynthia. Bye!

I would like to announce that my nephew killed his first goose on May 9th. His name is Peter Brian Kanatewat. I'm so proud of you. I luv U. Love, auntie Lorraine. (Chis)

What is a dad? He's someone who's taught you to follow your dreams and try to be all you can be. he's someone who listens to your point of view (though sometimes he may disagree). He's someone who loves you no matter what happens and sees you through good times and bad. He's someone who's there for you time after time. He's your mentor and friend...He's your dad. With you, dad, growing up doesn't mean growing apart...no matter how many years go by, we're still your children and you're still the one we turn to for love and comfort and advice. There's no way to thank you for all you've done, but we want you to know we'll always be here for you just as you've always been for us. happy father's day and much love goes to Gordon Blackned Sr. From your children, Gordon, Bertha, Sylvia and Stephane Blackned (Wask) P.S. You're the greatest!

Happy father's day to our dad Joseph A. We love you very much and you mean a lot to us. Love always, Irish, Norman and Julius. P.S. Hugs and kisses.

Happy father's day to my one and only dad Gilbert m. I love you so much with all my heart and soul. Love, your daughter Caitlin.

Happy father's day to a very special person in my life, my husband Darren M. Just remember we love you so much. Love, Lorna and your children Ashlyn and Raymond Bo.

I would like to wish my daddy Brian Ottereyes a happy father's day. Hope this day is as special as you are. You're the greatest!! Love always, your daughter Alyssa. xoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxo

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To my daddy Tony Gull. Happy first father's day!!! Me and Mommy love you so much. With lots of love, Brandon. xoxoxoxoxox

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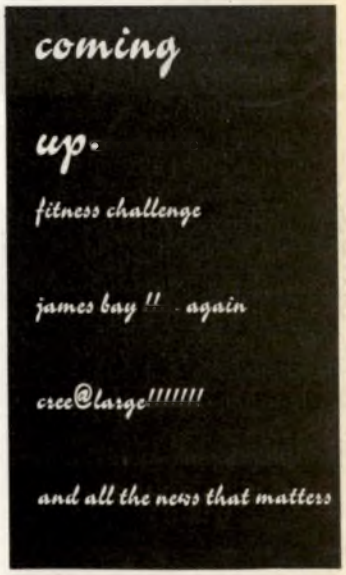
I would like to wish my daddy happy father's day. I love you with all of my heart and you have given me so much love and happiness. Love always, Sebastien Coon come.

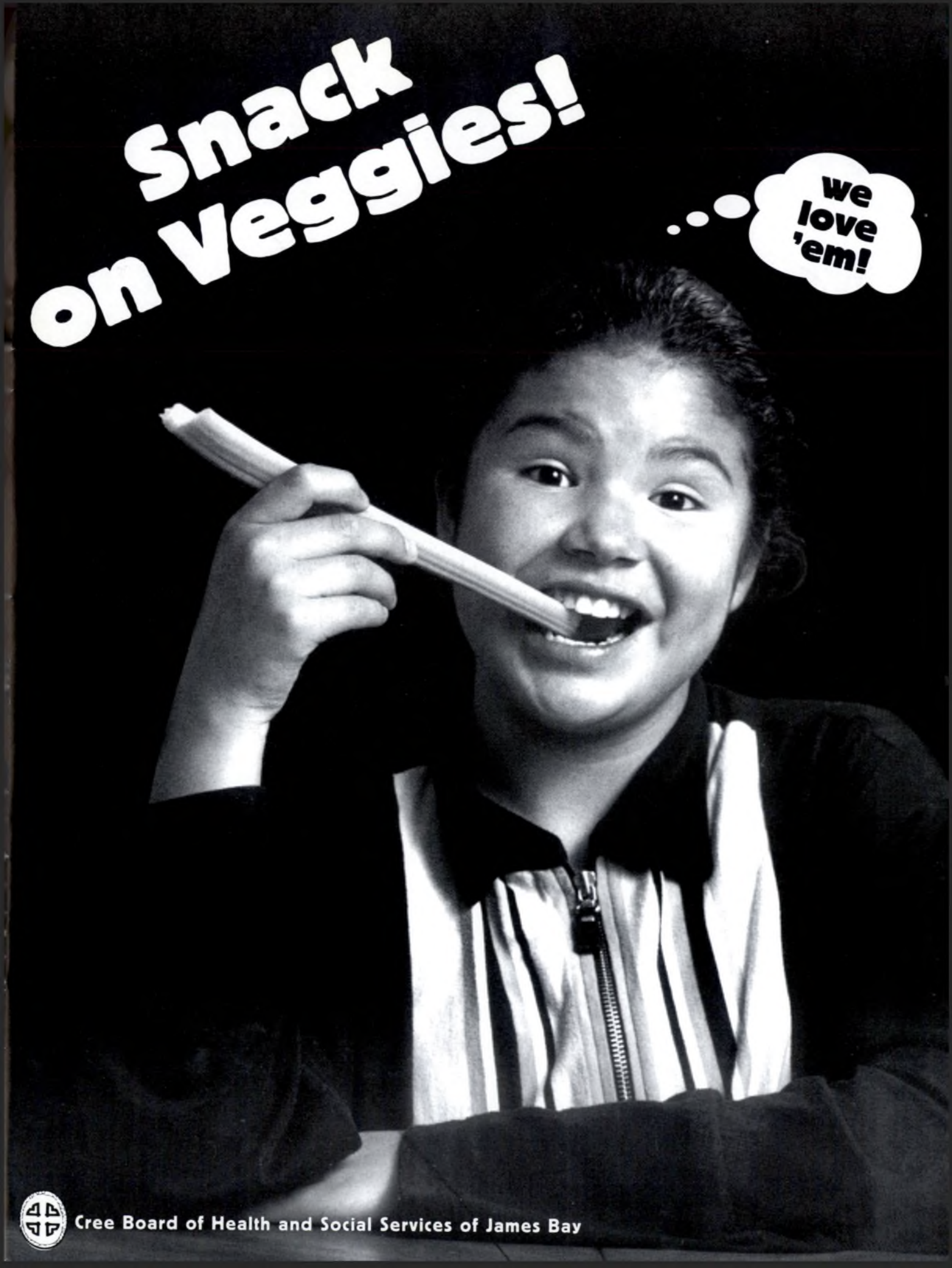
Happy father's day to Jerry Moar. From your daughter Shania and your son Boy (Jerry Jr.) With lots of love and big hugs. Daddy I need three hundred dollars. Ching ching.

Hello to you know who. Do you remember me? We met during goose break on the island of Fort George at Kayleen's walking out ceremony. Do you remember me? We sat on the couch and I told you a story, and we all laughed at my story. I remember you guys, do you remember me? maybe I will see you again this summer and we can play a game. Remember: baygue, neesh, nisht.

We just want to say danideen, hi, hello, how's it going, what's up, how's life, watchia to Jason Longchap. From Nancy and Betsie in Montreal. Chow, bye, see ya!! P.S. take care.

This is for Dorothy Gilpin Sr. When I first realized that we would no longer work together as boss/Secretary, I was very sad. It was like somebody cut off my arm and was expected to work with only one arm. But honestly I shouldn't feel that way, knowing you have set other goals for yourself. we have worked together for so many years, but I'm glad for you in your decision of going back to school. Now, you're setting a good example, "You're never too old to learn." No offense, anyway, I wish you the best and may you succeed. Remember when we were going to school in the 60's-70's our parents always told us when we went off to school down south, Don't drink" So I'm telling you now, Lay off the booze. (just a joke.) Anyways, good luck!




Snack on Veggies!
we love 'em!
Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

2nd Annual Cree First Nation Fitness Challenge

"WHERE THE ELITE COMPETE"

August 1 & 2, 1997

Registration Deadline: July 25

DISTANCES:	Men	Women
Swimming	1Km	1Km
Cycling	20Km	15Km
Portage	1Km	0.5Km
Canoeing	2Km	1Km
Running	10Km	7.5Km
Total	**34Km**	**25Km**

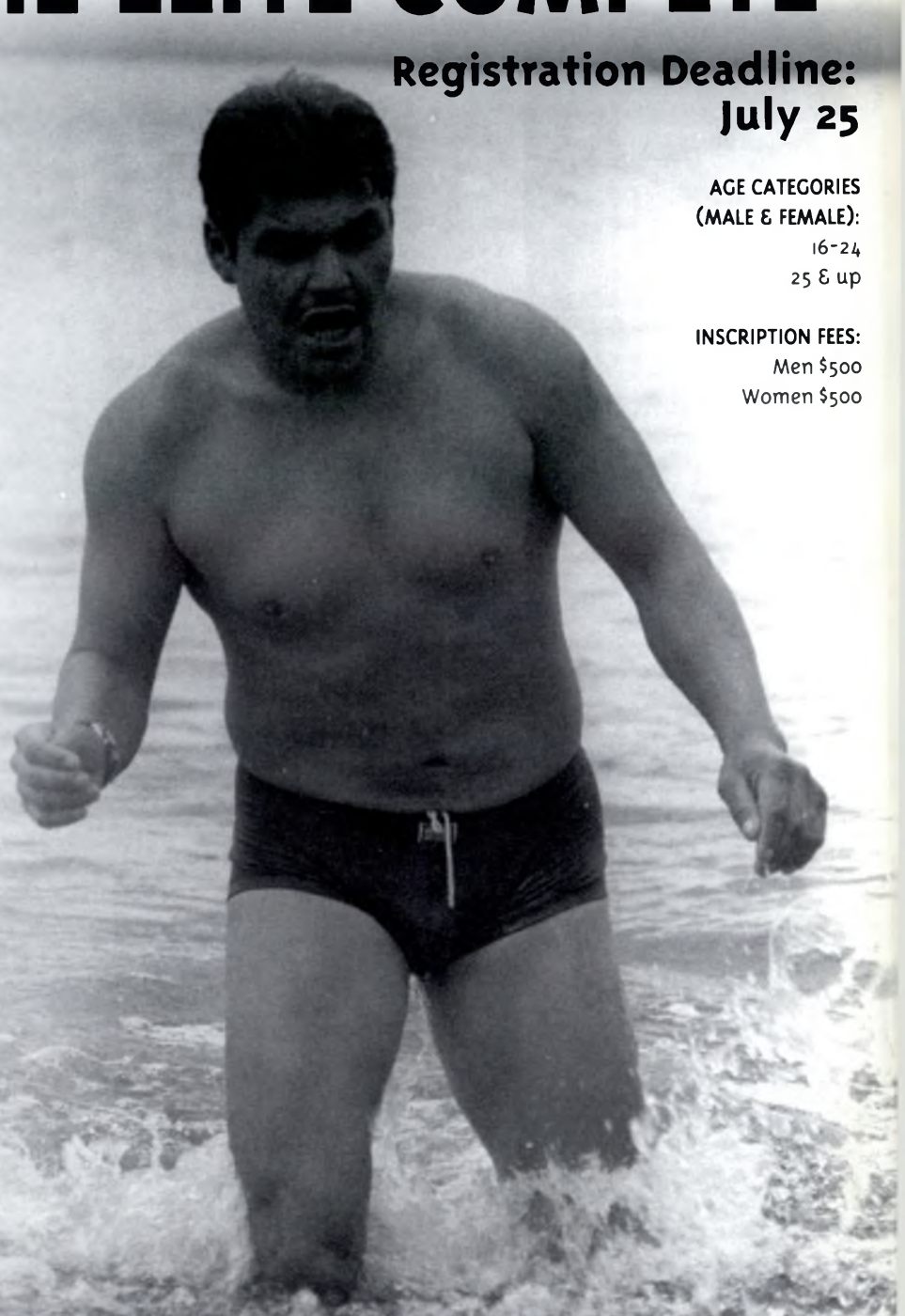
PRIZES:	Men	Women
1st	$3000	$3000
2nd	2500	2500
3rd	2000	2000
4th	1000	1000
5th	850	850

AGE CATEGORIES (MALE & FEMALE):
16-24
25 & up

INSCRIPTION FEES:
Men $500
Women $500

*also: **$100.00** cash prize will be awarded to the first place winner in each event. Trophies & plaques will also be awarded. Prize money may vary depending on the number of participants.*

NOTE:
All James Bay Cree Beneficiaries are eligible to participate. Any other Native person can participate if he or she has resided in a Cree community for at least 2 years.



Are you up to the Challenge?

For more information contact John Henry Wapachee at (819) 673-2512, or call your local Sports & Rec. Department.
Note: 16 & 17 yr. olds must have parental consent to compete.